

IN HONOR OF THE NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monterey County's new Emergency Services Center. This state-of-the-art essential services facility houses the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Office of Emergency Services, as well as the consolidated 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, which serves public safety agencies and virtually all 420,000 residents of Monterey County. The need for this facility and its coordinated, integrated approach to emergency and communications services was starkly highlighted during the floods that devastated the county in 1995. Harry Robins, Emergency Services Manager, identified the necessary improvements in planning, budgeting, fiscal constraints, design, construction and installation of equipment, never wavering in his commitment to the vision of what this facility should be, and what it would mean to the people of Monterey County.

Joining the county mid-stream in this planning effort was Emergency Communications Director Lynn Diebold, who solidified community backing and obtained fiscal support from every city and public safety agency served by the unique thirty-year partnership known as "County Comm". The final piece of the support and funding puzzle was achieved when I was able to secure approval for a HUD technology grant of nearly one million dollars. This funding ensured that the facility would be properly equipped to handle the day-to-day calls for police, fire and emergency medical calls for service, as well as improved the county's ability to respond regionally, with all local and State agencies, during any wildland fire, flood, earthquake or man-made disaster. These Federal grant funds were used to purchase essential telecommunications equipment and planning expertise, critical to meeting the joint missions of Emergency Services and Emergency Communications.

The County Board of Supervisors, City Mayors and Councils, Fire District Boards and public safety organizations throughout the county are justifiably proud of their partnership with each other and the Federal government on this important regional project. Board of Supervisors Chair Lou Calcagno remarked at the official opening in August 2004, that he was "particularly pleased that in these challenging fiscal times, this facility was built on time, on budget and is 100 percent paid for." He added, "With no financing or bonds to pay off, this project is a testament to the good planning and hard work of county staff and the support and financial participation of our partner cities and Federal government". City of Monterey Mayor, Dan Albert, who serves as the Chair of the Emergency Communications Policy Advisory Council, acknowledged the dedication and hard work of the 911 dispatchers and staff who handle over 600,000 911 and non-emergency telephone calls and more than 500,000 dispatch incidents annually.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to be able to do my part in helping secure funding for this

project. I join my colleagues in celebrating the opening of this building that has so many significant benefits to the county, and in thanking all those who work here for their commitment to the welfare of their fellow citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF FOOD PROCESSORS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the California League of Food Processors, CLFP, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

For those who are not familiar with the CLFP, it was founded in 1905 in San Francisco and was originally known as the Canners League of California. Its mission then was to represent the canners of California fruits and vegetables. Since then, its membership, and its mission, has expanded to include not only canners but also freezers, dryers, and dehydrators; its membership contains familiar names such as Bell-Carter, Campbell Soup, Del Monte, H.J. Heinz, Kraft, Rio Bravo, Sun-Maid, and Sunsweet.

These companies, along with the other members of the CLFP, play a crucial role in California's \$27 billion agriculture industry. In a typical year, CLFP members can, freeze, or dry 11 million tons of tomatoes, 500,000 tons of peaches, 120,000 tons of olives, and millions of tons of other fruits and vegetables such as garlic, prunes, and strawberries.

For the past 100 years, the CLFP has worked to ensure that the food grown and processed in California is of the highest quality. In the process, the CLFP and its Members have encouraged the growth of the California fruit and vegetable industry by being a leader in the development of technological innovations that have helped the industry achieve advances in fruit and vegetable varieties, harvesting automation, processing mechanization, food packaging, and distribution systems. Accordingly, I trust that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the CLFP on their 100th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING GARY SCHMIDT AND OTHER WINNERS OF THE 2005 NEWBERY AND PRINTZ BOOK AWARDS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations and recognition to Prof. Gary Schmidt for having his book for young adults, "Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy," recognized as a 2005 John Newbery Honor Book and as a 2005 Michael L. Printz Honor Book.

Professor Schmidt, a member of the English Department faculty at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in my district, took 3 years to write "Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy," which he based on a tragic 1912 inci-

dent—the eradication of a small African-American community from a Maine island by townspeople from the nearby community of Phippsburg, Maine. The story follows the friendship between two teenagers—Lizzie Bright Turner, an African-American resident of the island of Malaga, and Turner Buckminster, the son of Phippsburg's newly arrived minister.

In making the award, Newbery Award Committee chair Susan Faust said Professor Schmidt's book is "[s]teeped in imagery and laced with surprising humor," and that it "... explores powerlessness, possibility and the profound impact individuals can make." "We spent a year studying the universe of eligible books, and it is a thrill to name this as one of our honor books," Faust said.

Despite his success as an author, Professor Schmidt continues his work as an educator. In fact, he found out about his honors while leading a group of students on a 3-week study trip in Massachusetts and, after dealing with the requisite media interviews, celebrated with his students.

"It's a tremendous honor in a year when the books are strong and wonderful," Schmidt said. "The (book) is very close to my heart."

Mr. Speaker, this is a book that we can recommend to all young people, with a wonderful theme of young people learning to make important decisions. It is a story that illuminates that important transition from childhood to adulthood.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in congratulating Prof. Gary Schmidt and his fellow honorees: 2005 Newbery Medal winner Cynthia Kadohata for her book, "Kira-Kira," and fellow Newbery Honor Book recipients Jennifer Choldenko ("Al Capone Does My Shirts") and Russell Freedman ("The Voice that Challenged a Nation"), as well as 2005 Printz Award winner Meg Rosoff for her book, "how i live now" and fellow Printz Honor Book recipients Kenneth Oppel ("Airborn") and Allan Stratton ("Chanda's Secrets").

HONORING SHIRLEY CHISHOLM AND JAMES FORMAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the country's annual celebration of Black History Month, I find it appropriate to reflect on the lives of Shirley Chisholm and James Forman, who both passed away in the last month. Both of them were critical figures in the ongoing endeavor to ensure equal rights and opportunity for all Americans. On a personal level, their life stories are case studies in the power of courage to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

In recollecting the life of Shirley Chisholm, the words fighter and pioneer come to mind. The child of Caribbean immigrants, she would challenge the Democratic machine in Brooklyn, and an all-male field of candidates, to become the first African American woman elected to Congress. Along the way, she used the slogan "unbought and unbossed" to affirm her determination to steer clear of party and gender nonns, and fight for what she believed.

During her seven terms in Congress, she would champion the rights and interests of

women, minorities, children, and the poor. Initially relegated to the Agriculture Committee, which had almost no relevance to her urban New York district, she would fight to get relevant committee assignments for both her and her Black Congressional colleagues. On the Education and Labor Committee she would support improved employment and education programs, expansion of day care, income support, and other programs to improve America's inner cities.

In 1972 she would challenge the status quo again, when she launched a bid to become the Democratic nominee for President. Though the party initially marginalized her, she persevered to the end, constantly reiterating her message of government's accountability to all Americans.

Her underdog effort inspired both Blacks and Whites around the country, and earned her the respect of her early critics. Shirley would go on to outlast better-known and better-funded primary contenders. At the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami, she would receive 151 delegate votes—far more than anyone could have imagined.

Though a fighter, even her opponents were astounded by her innate compassion and empathy. During her presidential bid, Chisholm went to the hospital to visit George Wallace, a political rival and ardent racial segregationist, after he had been shot in a failed assassination attempt.

Wallace was shocked by the Chisholm's gesture—one that was politically risky at best. It is said that Chisholm told Wallace, "I know what they're going to say. But I wouldn't want what happened to you to happen to anyone". Her words moved him to tears. Two years later when she needed support on legislation to extend the minimum wage to domestic workers, George Wallace would gather the Southern support it required.

In addition to Shirley Chisholm, the recent passing of James Forman represents a great loss to our country. Forman joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1961, and was elected its executive secretary one week later. He would soon play a central role in developing SNCC from a loose coalition of student protest groups, to one of the most prominent and effective organizations of the Civil Rights Movement.

Utilizing the discipline and organizational skills he acquired as an Air Force and Korean War veteran, James Forman managed and directed the legions of brave SNCC volunteers, who in the 1960's, descended upon the southern United States to combat the racial injustice that had long festered there.

Today, thousands get academic degrees in public administration and management. I wonder how they might have benefited from talking to James. As a manager and organizer he may have been the best that the civil rights movement ever had. While the movement had many great orators and diplomats, James was a master of the nuts and bolts that make organizations run.

He was also known as something of a field general, willing to endure the same that he asked of his subordinates. James was often harassed, beaten and jailed during his many trips to register voters and organize protests in areas where violence and intimidation ruled. He would see many of his brethren pay the ultimate sacrifice for liberty and justice. This only strengthened his resolve to press on.

Though he left the SNCC in 1966, he would remain a prominent figure throughout the Civil Rights Movement. In subsequent years he would be an outspoken advocate for the socio-economic empowerment of African Americans in the post civil rights era, founding the Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee.

He would also be one of the first African Americans to explicitly call for reparations for the oppressive treatment inflicted on African Americans during their history in this country. Many institutions responded by setting up programs aimed at improving Black communities.

Indeed America has lost much by the passing of Shirley Chisholm and James Forman. But we have gained much by the fact that they lived. They now enter the Pantheon of American patriots whose fearless and unrelenting quest for justice and liberty irrevocably changed this nation for the better.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us". Shirley Chisholm and James Forman showed the world what lay within them, and now their memories will lie within us forever.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHISPA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association, Inc., affectionately called CHISPA, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. CHISPA is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 Community-based Housing Development Organization, whose California housing projects have served Monterey County's lowest-income population for 25 years, and is the largest private nonprofit housing developer in the area.

CHISPA's Self-Help program allows participants to become homeowners through building their houses themselves. Since 1990, CHISPA's Self-Help program has built 483 homes for approximately 2,560 people in Monterey County alone. This laudable program allows large low-income families to build their own homes with three to four bedrooms, double car garages, vaulted ceilings, landscaped front and back yards, sprinkler systems, and oak cabinets. Working 40 hours per week under the guidance of a construction supervisor, families are able to realize their dream home.

Another worthy CHISPA program is the Moderate Income Housing program in which first-time home buyers receive financial assistance. Beneficiaries of this program include city employees, entry-level professionals, and teachers.

CHISPA Housing and Management, Inc., CHMI, Housing and Maintenance Specialists ensure that houses are of the highest quality by overseeing all construction activities. Program participants learn both construction and maintenance techniques, in addition to valuable management skills. CHISPA contributes to social well-being not only by enabling families to construct beautiful homes, but also by providing participants with a deeper sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud CHISPA's many accomplishments, and commend them for the tremendous effort they dedicate to enabling families to own their own home. I join the entire community in honoring this truly remarkable organization for its achievements in making the American Dream a reality for so many of our citizens.

HONORING THE 57TH ANNUAL YMCA TEXAS YOUTH AND GOV- ERNMENT CONFERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hundreds of students and advisors that will be gathering in Austin from February 3–7 for the 57th annual YMCA Texas Youth and Government Conference. Each year, delegations of high school students from around the Lone Star State travel to Austin to learn about their government through hands-on activities at the State Capitol. I am very proud of the school delegations that travel from the 32nd Congressional District of Texas to attend and learn from this wonderful conference.

My best wishes to Youth Governor Nathan Gonzales of Benbrook, Youth Lt. Governor Grant Reid of Garland, and all of the other youth officers and delegates that will be making a difference in Austin this week. My special thanks to YMCA Texas Youth and Government State Director Suzanne Mabie for all of the tireless hours of service that she commits to make this conference the great success that it is each and every year.

I've had the privilege of being involved with this conference for the last several years and have always been impressed with the talents of the young individuals who are involved with the program. All my best wishes for a successful 57th annual conference in Austin.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LUCILLE HALLMAN HOLMAN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lucille Hallman Holman, a South Carolinian native whose dedication to service to God and country shines as an example to all of us. On February 13, 2005, she will celebrate her 100th birthday, and I believe it is important to commemorate her centennial birthday with a few highlights of the many contributions she has made to her church and community.

Mrs. Holman was born in Leesville, South Carolina and began her education in the local public schools. In order to finish high school she was forced to leave home at an early age and matriculated at nearby Betties Academy in Aiken County. She continued her education at Benedict College, a Baptist supported college in Columbia, where she met and married Lewis W. Holman, who was attending Allen University, a nearby African Methodist Episcopal Church supported school.